

Town-Gown-Private Partnership

Community Food Waste Composting



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Overview

- History of composting at Illinois State University
- Community need
- Project outline



History of Compost at Illinois State

- Started in 1993
- Traditional windrow method (photo below)
- Mixture of livestock manure, landscape waste and Illinois State University dining food waste



Illinois State University's Food Waste

- Installed pulpers in University dinning centers
- University Recycling transports material to University Farm



Challenges with Current System

- Only pulped food waste is accepted
- Inclement weather limits compost operations
- Transport of food waste is labor intensive and inefficient



Community Need

- Interest from Community Sustainability Forum

State Farm Insurance, County Financial, OSF Hospital, BroMenn Hospital, Town of Normal, McLean County Government, Illinois Wesleyan University, Heartland Community College, Mitsubishi Motors, Unit 5 & District 87 School Districts, Ecology Action Center, City of Bloomington.

- Supported as a community project for One Voice

McLean County Economic Development Council

35 Community Leaders in Washington DC

5 year program responsible for 22 million dollar grant to the Town of Normal for a new Multi Modal Transportation Building



Project Overview



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Project Goals

- Significant diversion of materials from landfill
- Budget neutral for participants
- Expandable
- Replicable
- Self sustaining



Public/Private Partnership

Illinois State University, Midwest Fiber, Town of Normal

- University Farm expand composting operations
- Town increased amount yard waste material
- 3rd party hauler (Midwest Fiber) transports material to the University farm
- Increased amount of compost produced
- Non residential entities can participate
- Project will accept food waste and fiber products

University Farm

- Installation of concrete slab
- Expanded EPA permit



- Charging “tipping fee” to fund a position to run the operations
- Purchase Tub Grinder



Hauler – Midwest Fiber

- Establish a collection route and deliver to the Farm
- Community participants contract with 3rd party hauler (Midwest Fiber)
- Hauler pays “tipping fee” at University Farm
- Share University developed educational materials with participants



Illinois Department Economic Opportunity Grant

- Illinois State University and Midwest Fiber both received grants
- Midwest Fiber
 - DCEO- \$123,000
 - Midwest Fiber \$27,000
 - Purchased Truck, total Grant project \$150,000
- Illinois State University Grant project total: \$137,500
 - DCEO - \$123,750
 - Illinois State University - \$13,750
 - University Dining - \$12,500
 - Office of Sustainability - \$1,250

Test Run



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Composting Food Waste

If it used to be alive, throw it in the compost bin!

Acceptable Green Waste Materials

Only place materials accepted for composting in the compost bin!

Food Scraps *Anything that used to be alive* **Soiled Paper**

- Bread, grains and pasta
- Coffee grounds
- Dairy
- Eggshells
- Fruit (pits and nuts too)
- Leftovers and spoiled food
- Meat (including bones)
- Seafood (including shellfish)
- Vegetables
- Cooking oil
- Coffee filters
- Greasy pizza boxes
- Paper cups and plates
- Paper ice cream containers
- Paper bags
- Paper take-out boxes and containers
- Paper tea bags
- Waxy paper milk and juice cartons (no foil liner)
- Waxed cardboard and paper
- Paper Towels and Napkins

Unacceptable Compost Materials

Please **do not** place the following materials into the compost container!

- Aluminum foil or trays
- "Biodegradable" plastic
- "Compostable" plastic
- Ceramic dishware or glassware
- Clothing and linens
- Corks
- Diapers
- Dirt, rocks or stone
- Flower pots or trays
- Foil-backed or plastic-backed paper
- Medical waste
- Glass, metal or plastic
- Juice or soy milk type boxes with foil liner
- Kitty litter or animal feces
- Plastic bags, wrappers or film
- Plywood, pressboard, painted or stained wood
- Styrofoam
- Tissues
- Used tissues/Kleenex

Do not send it to the landfill! You can help make good, clean soil by composting food waste.

Thank you for your time and effort, you make a difference!



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Pilot Project

- Illinois State Dining
- Grocery Store
- Nursing Home

“Three Days of Collection”



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- Combination Food Waste and Yard Waste



Concrete Pad allows operations in poor weather conditions



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Food Waste has helped shorten our compost time two to three weeks

Start



Finish



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Lessons Learned

- Road weight limit issues at Farm
- Prevailing Wage issues with contractor
- Cleaning of containers
- Need for Food Donation before Diversion at grocery stores
- Opportunities
 - Discussion in early stages of Compressed Natural Gas production to run University and Town vehicles
 - Provided Graduate Student funding for analysis of waste stocks in community -Paradigm Bio Aviation
 - Midwest Fiber has discovered new recycling customers
 - Midwest received a 5 million bond funding from Town of Normal
 - Increase sales in compost providing new revenue



Community Impact

- Town of Normal assisted Midwest Fiber with a 5.6 million dollar bonding for expansion of their operations
- Economic impact of 8 new jobs created
- Financial impact to community of \$900,000.00 a year

Questions?



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“Never doubt that a small, group of thoughtful, committed citizens
can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has” ...

-Margaret Mead



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